

Good Jobs that Pay without a B.A.

Nicole Smith

April 3, 2018

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

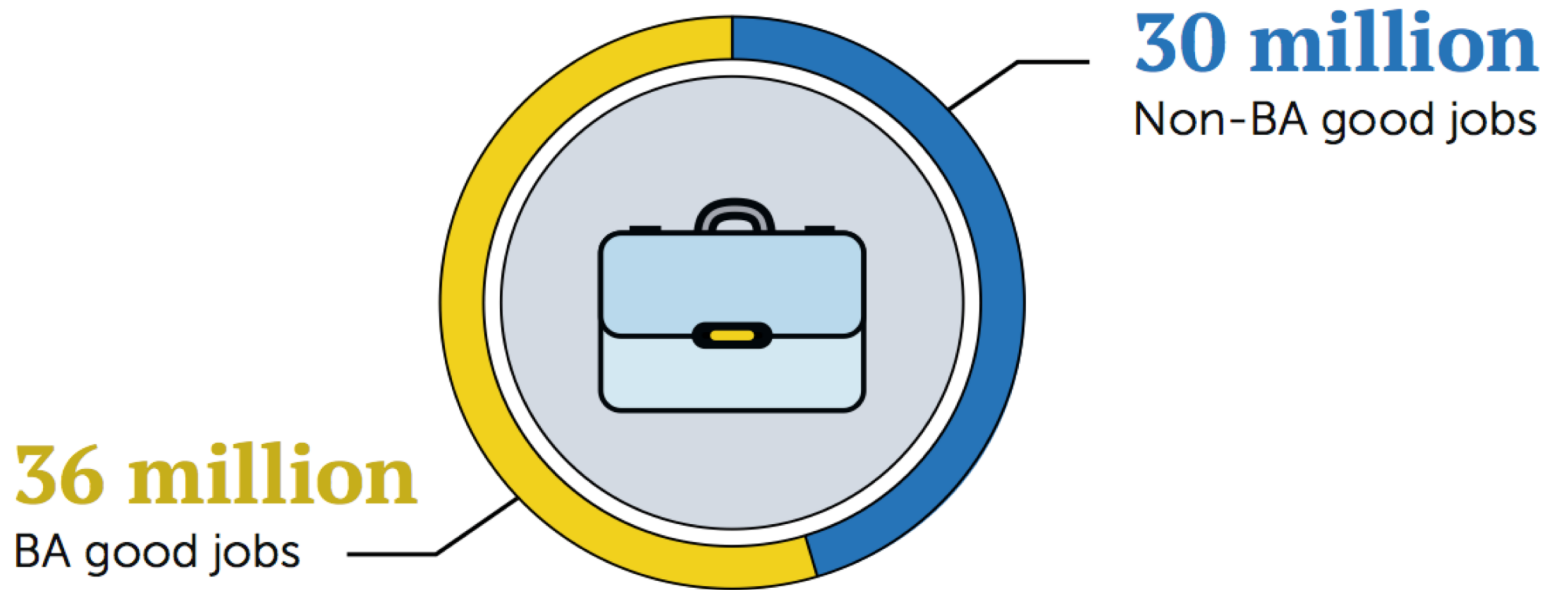


Center
on Education
and the Workforce

McCourt School of Public Policy

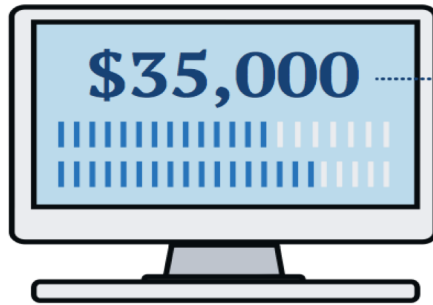


There are 30 million good jobs that pay for workers without a BA and 36 million for those with a BA or higher.



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 2016.

What is a good job?



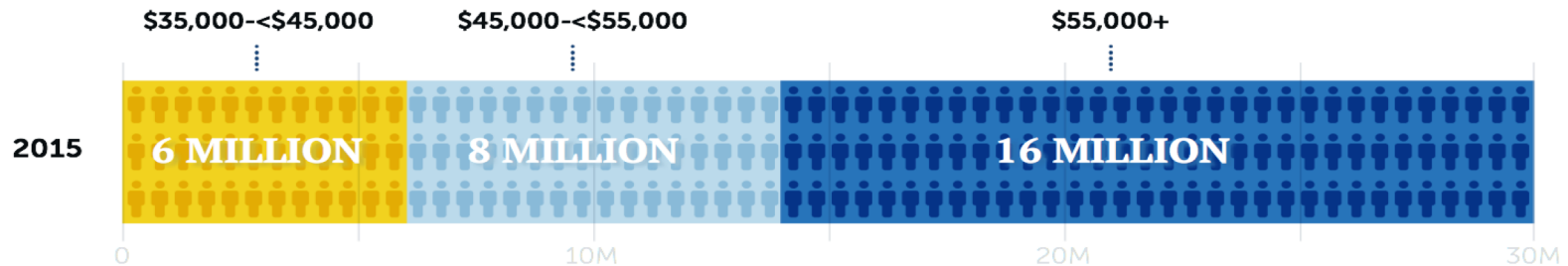
In defining a good job, we chose **\$35,000** (\$17 per hour for a full-time job) as the minimum earnings for those under age 45, and **\$45,000** (\$22 per hour for a full-time job) for workers age 45 and older.

\$55,000



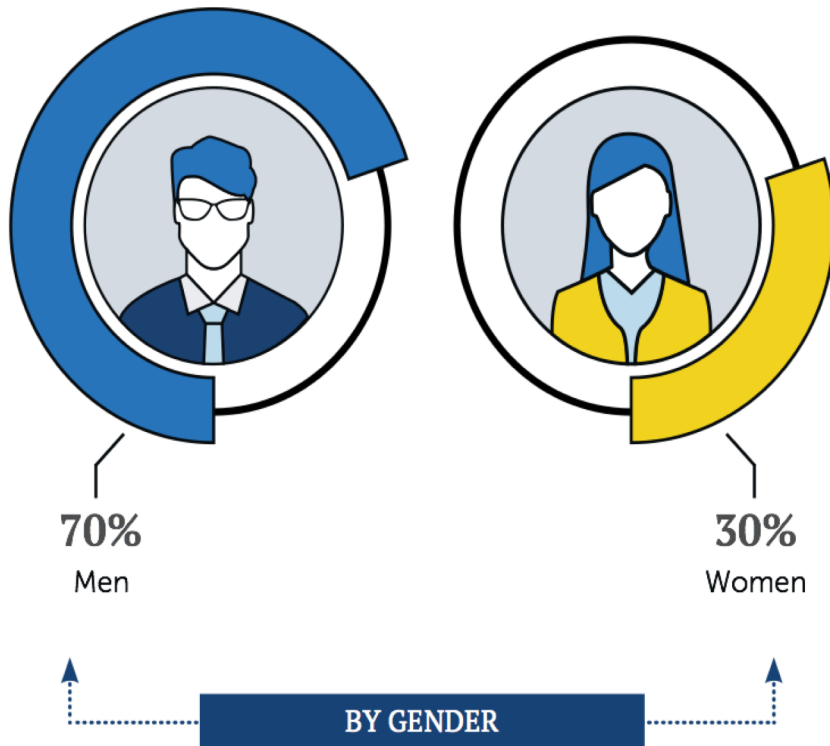
In 2015, these good jobs paid an average of **\$55,000** per year.

Of the **30 million good jobs** that do not require a Bachelor's degree, 24 million pay more than \$45,000 annually.

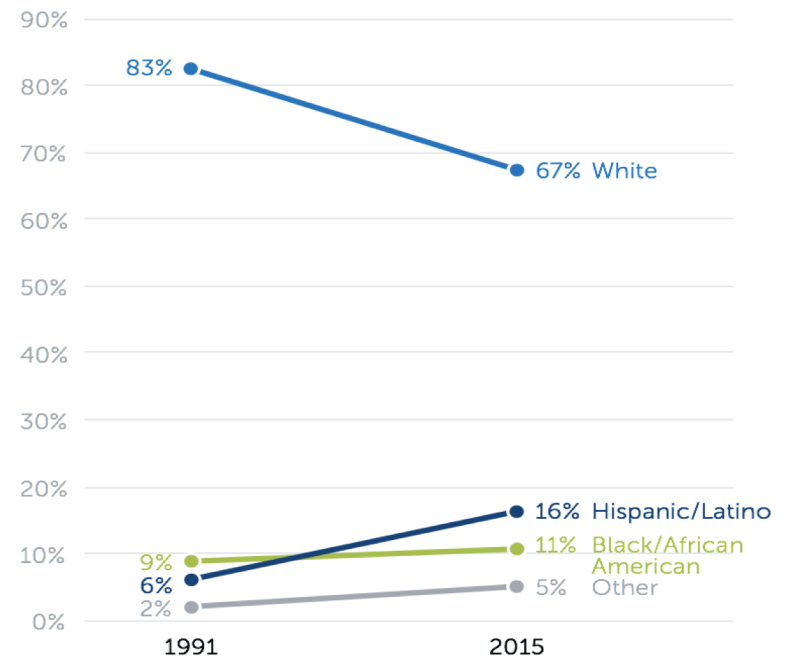


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 1992-2016.

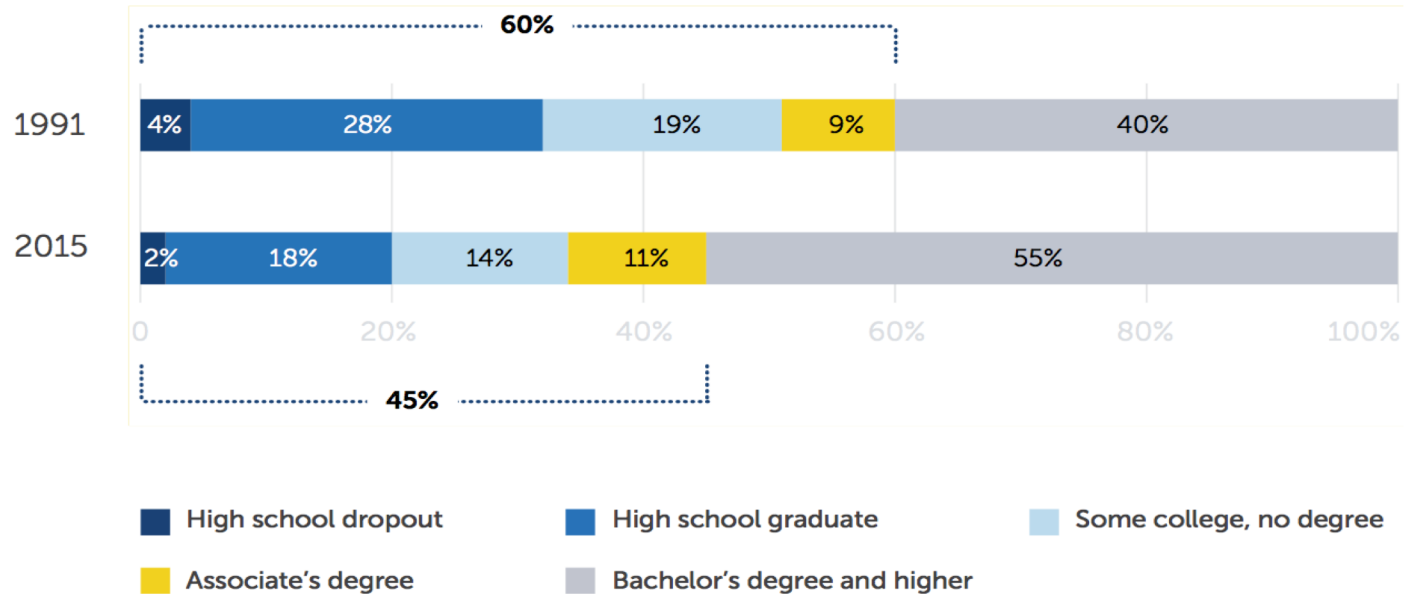
Who gets a good job by sex and race/ethnicity



Whites still have the largest share of good jobs, even though their share has declined, while **Latinos** have experienced the largest growth in good jobs. There has been little growth in good jobs for **Blacks**.

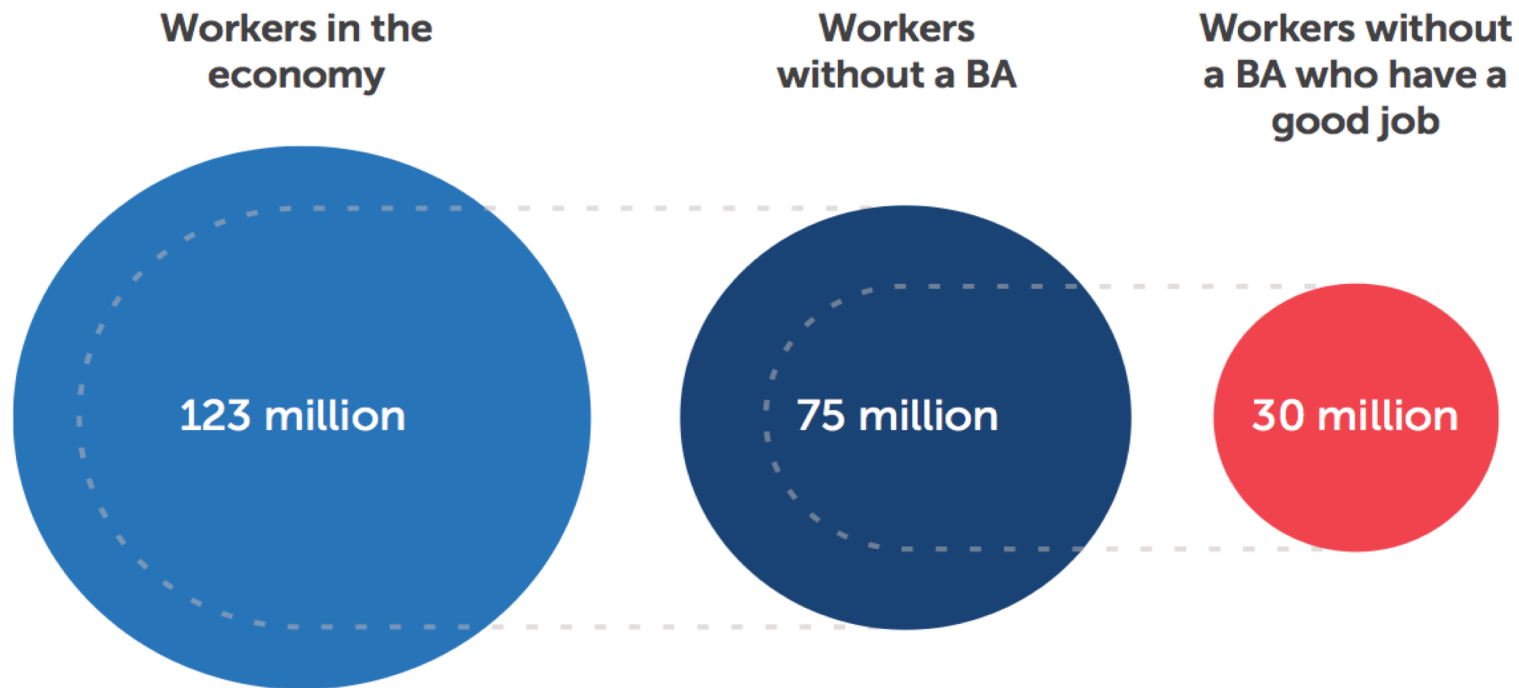


Between 1991 and 2015, the share of good jobs going to workers without a BA fell from 60 percent to 45 percent



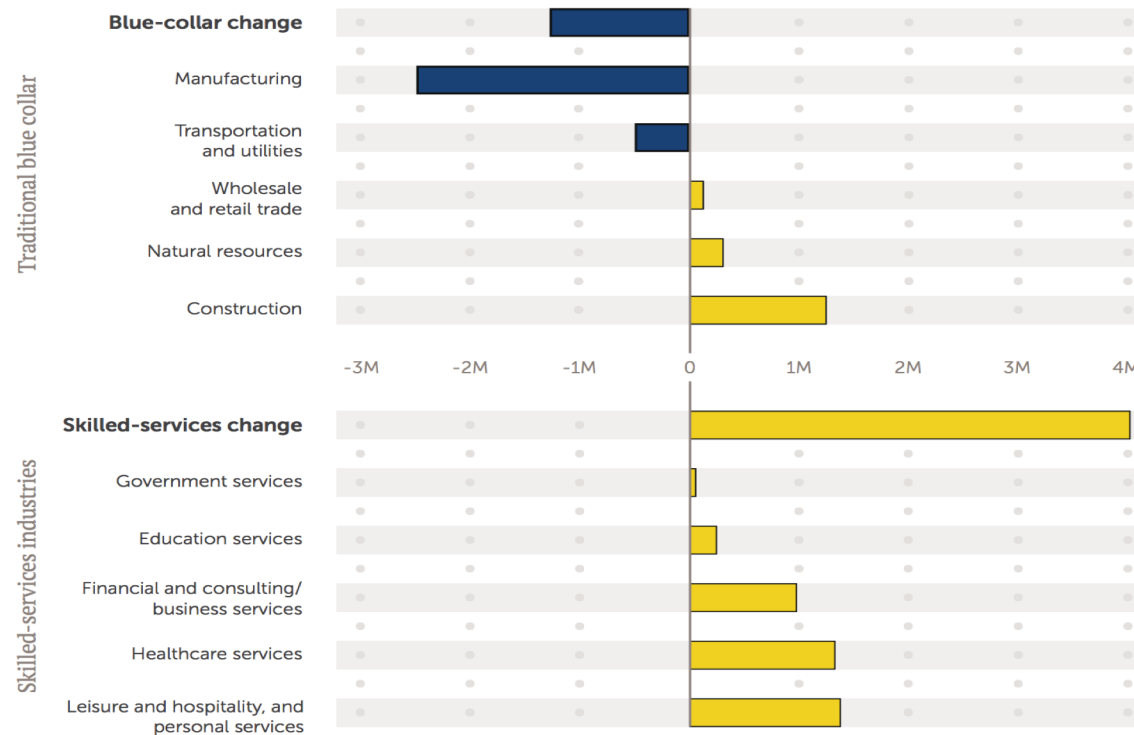
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement* (March), 1992-2016.

30 million American workers aged 25 to 64 had good jobs that pay without a BA in 2015



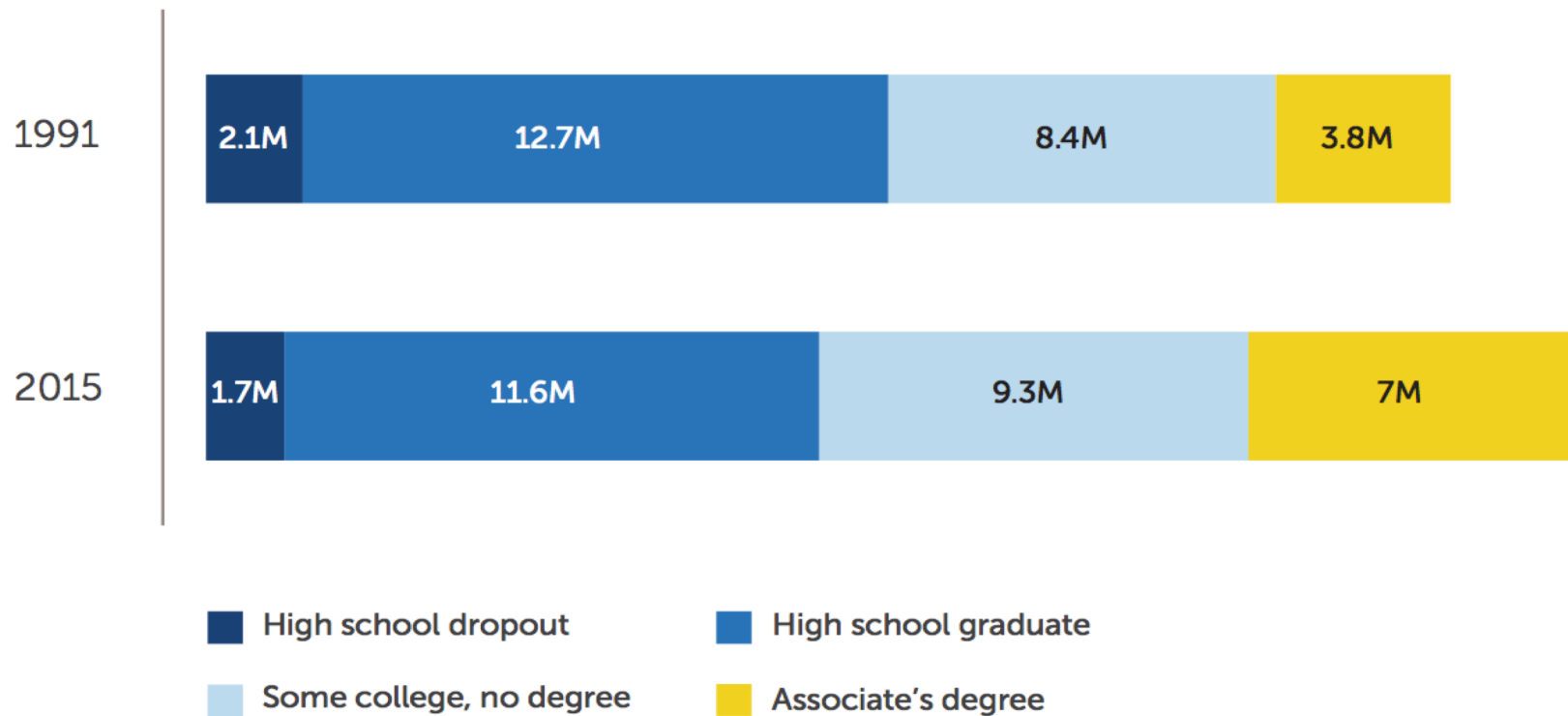
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 1992-2016.

The growth of good jobs in skilled-services industries has offset losses in traditional blue-collar industries



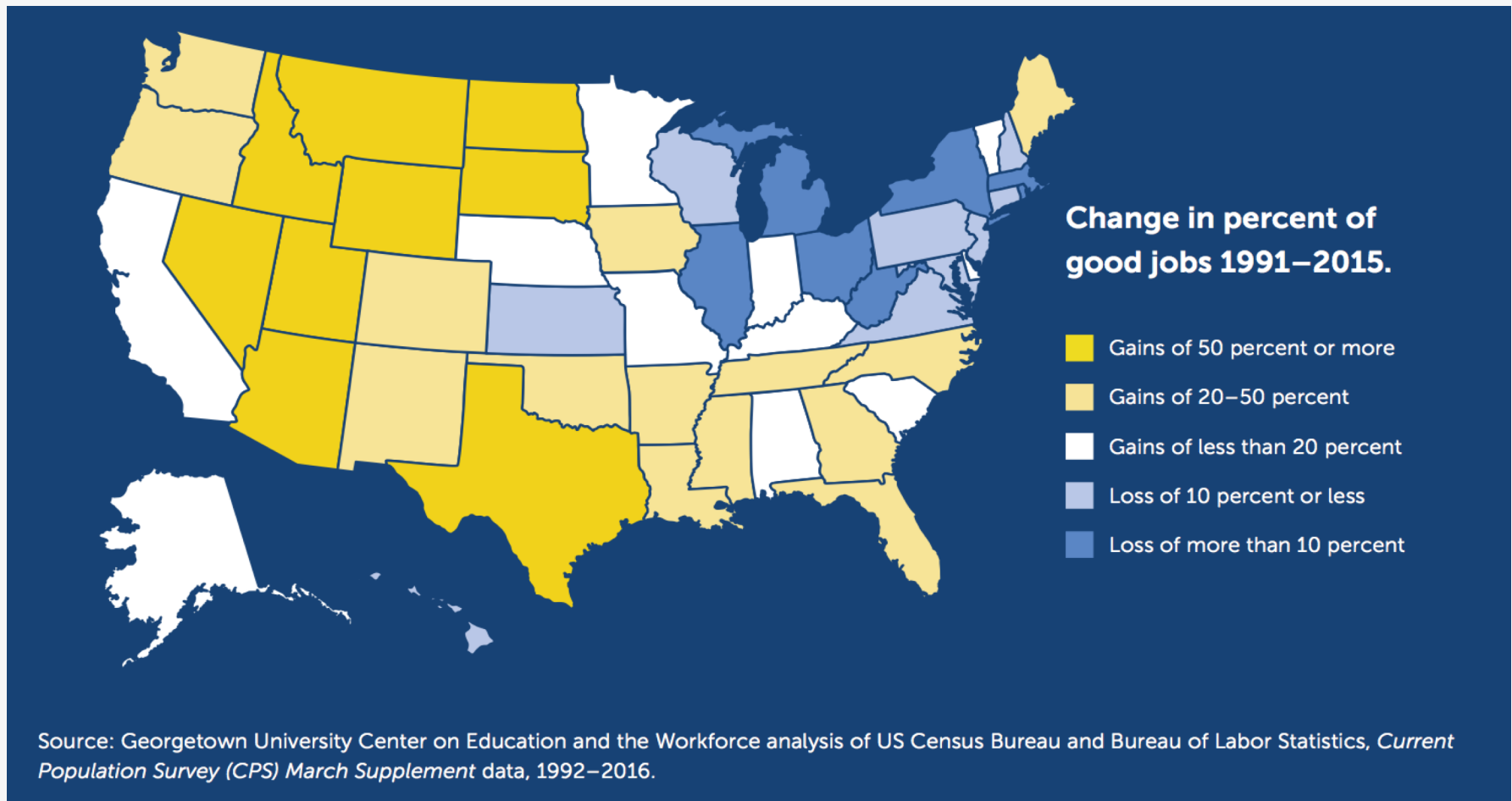
Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 1992-2016.

High school graduates have the largest share of good jobs for workers without a BA, but their share has declined

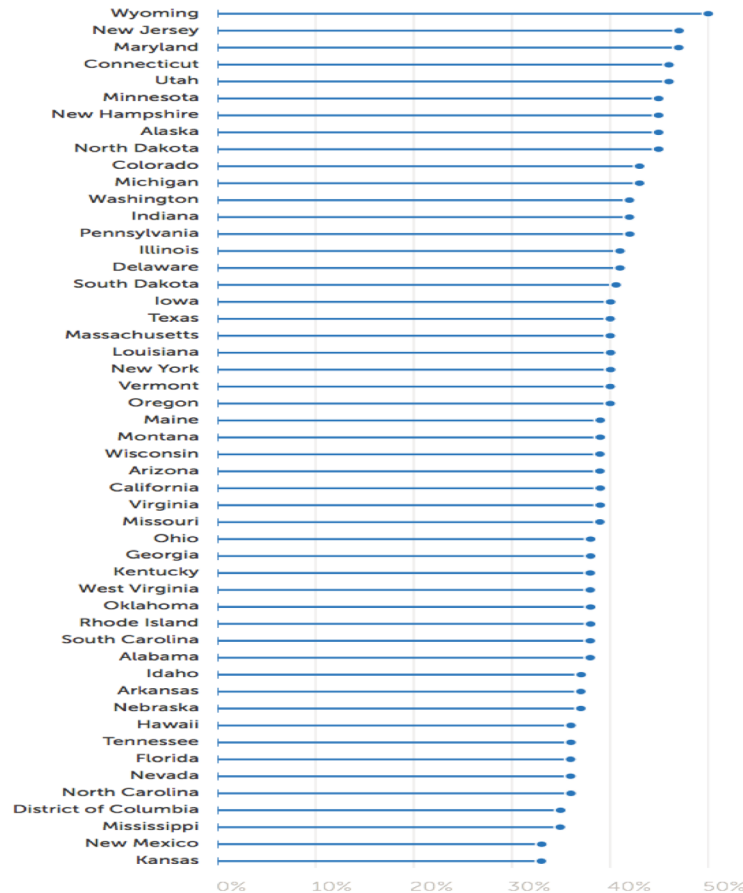


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 1992-2016.

States in the South and West had the greatest percentage growth in good jobs for those without BAs



In Iowa, 2/5 jobs are good jobs for workers without a BA



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of *Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (March)*, 1992-2016.

National

Who has the good jobs? BA vs. non-BA



How big is the non-BA workforce?



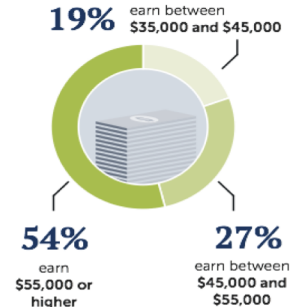
Change in number of non-BA good jobs 1991-2015



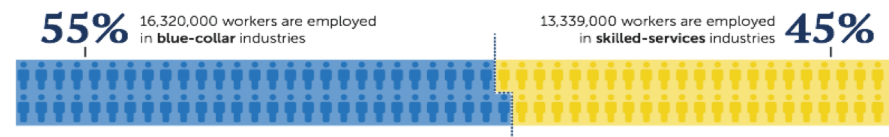
\$55,000



Earnings distribution of non-BA good jobs



Non-BA good jobs in blue-collar vs. skilled-services industries



Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey (CPS)* March Supplement data, 1992-2016.

Note: Figures in charts and tables may not sum due to rounding.

Iowa

Who has the good jobs? BA vs. non-BA



How big is the non-BA workforce?



Change in number of non-BA good jobs 1991-2015



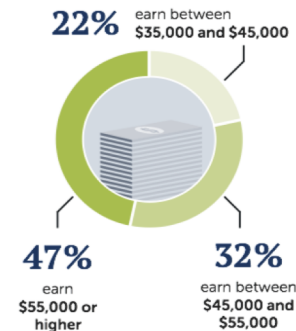
Non-BA good jobs in blue-collar vs. skilled-services industries



\$53,000



Earnings distribution of non-BA good jobs



Jobs by educational attainment

Educational attainment	Number of workers	Workers with good jobs	Median earnings	Median earnings of workers with good jobs
Non-BA Workers				
Less than high school	59,000	13,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
High school graduate	331,000	113,000	\$31,000	\$52,000
Some college	275,000	108,000	\$33,000	\$55,000
Associate's degree	173,000	85,000	\$38,000	\$54,000
All non-BA workers	837,000	319,000	\$33,000	\$53,000
BA+ Workers				
Bachelor's or higher	401,000	276,000	\$52,000	\$65,000
All workers	1,238,000	594,000	\$38,000	\$58,000

NON-BA GOOD JOBS

Top five industries

Industry	Number of non-BA good jobs	Share of non-BA good jobs	Share of non-BA workers with good jobs	Median earnings
Manufacturing	84,000	26%	48%	\$52,000
Construction	38,000	12%	53%	\$53,000
Transportation and utilities	31,000	10%	60%	\$60,000
Health services	30,000	10%	26%	\$51,000
Information, financial activities, and real estate	28,000	9%	43%	\$55,000

Top five occupations

Occupation	Number of non-BA good jobs	Share of non-BA good jobs	Share of non-BA workers with good jobs	Median earnings
Production	47,000	15%	40%	\$51,000
Management	37,000	12%	61%	\$65,000
Office and administrative support	35,000	11%	26%	\$50,000
Transportation and material moving	34,000	11%	39%	\$51,000
Sales and related	31,000	10%	41%	\$56,000

Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce analysis of Bureau of the Census, *American Community Survey* microdata 2013-2015.

Note: Figures in charts and tables may not sum due to rounding.

For more information:



Email Us | cewgeorgetown@georgetown.edu



Follow Us on Twitter | [@GeorgetownCEW](https://twitter.com/GeorgetownCEW)



Find us on Facebook | [Facebook.com/GeorgetownCEW](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgetownCEW)